



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg

358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936

August 17, 2020

MINUTES

Officials Present: Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, Councilman Dr. Curtis Brantley

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda H. Simmons, County Attorney David Tedder, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess, Emergency Services Director Frank Edwards, Danny Lucas Economic Development Coordinator and Airport Manager, and Lisa Wagner Director of Planning and Building

Call to Order - Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.

I. Call to Order

II. Executive Session

SECTION 30-4-70. Meetings which may be closed; procedure; circumvention of chapter; disruption of meeting; executive sessions of General Assembly.

(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that a hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing –
Constitutional Officers and Magistrates**
- (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contract arrangements and proposed purchase or sale of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice related to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against**

the agency of a claim – Section 30-4-70(a)(2) – Cherry Point Fire District / Nickel Plate MCIP, Lowcountry Commerce Park, Exit 3, Peninsula Tract, Southern Carolina Alliance Contract Renewal, Supplemental IGA for Regional Shelter, School District Admin Building and Grays Community Center, NSC Real Estate

- (5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body -- Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT), Project Saltwater, Project Sand Dollar

ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTER ON WHICH DISCUSSION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED MAY HAVE DISCUSSION SUSPENDED FOR PURPOSES OF BEGINNING THE OPEN SESSION AT ITS SCHEDULED TIME, AND COUNCIL MAY RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

Return to Open Session.

Motion to return to Open Session in the Council Chambers at 6:30 PM - Vice Chairwoman Clark
Second - Councilman Sauls

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Sauls.

The Invocation was given by Vice Chairwoman Clark.

Chairman Etheridge asked if there were any items that Council needed to take a vote on from the Executive Session on the items listed below:

1. No action to be taken.

2. Supplemental IGA for Regional Shelter

Motion regarding the Joint Shelter Supplemental Intergovernmental Agreement, move to confirm the approval by County Council authorizing the County Administrator to execute documents on behalf of Jasper County regarding the Joint Shelter at the Ridgeland High School, including the Supplemental IGA and its Policy Agreement, Operational Annex Agreement, and Facility Use Agreements, after the Administrator, with the assistance of the County Attorney, finalizes the final proofreading and coordination with Beaufort County and the Jasper County School District, with leave to make such non-substantive formatting, typographical and grammatical modifications as they shall determine or necessary or desirable – Councilman Sauls

Second – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

5. Project Saltwater

Motion Regarding Project Saltwater, move to authorize the County Administrator, with the assistance of the County Attorney and outside legal counsel, to finalize the Inducement Resolution for Project Saltwater by including the terms and conditions as discussed by County Council in Executive Session, and to provide the Southern Carolina Alliance and the attorney for Project Saltwater a copy of the Inducement Resolution to be considered by County Council in order to conclude negotiations – Councilman Sauls

Second - Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote – Unanimous

The motion passed.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda - Councilman Sauls

Councilman Johnson stated that he recalled council wanting to remove an item.

Councilman Sauls amended his motion to approve the agenda to include the deletion of Item # 12E.

Second – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote – Unanimous

The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes – July 20, 2020; July 23, 2020

Motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2020 and July 23, 2020: Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second – Councilman Sauls

Vote – Unanimous

The motion passed.

Presentations and Proclamations

A. Danny Lucas – 2020 Aviation Week Proclamation

Mr. Danny Lucas requested on behalf of the SC Aviation Association that the Jasper County Council approve this Proclamation. Mr. Lucas read the 2020 Aviation Week Proclamation for the record. Council unanimously approved this Proclamation for 2020 Aviation Week.

B. Chairman Henry Etheridge – Recognition of the winner of the S.C. Association of Counties 2020 Board of Directors Scholarship for Jasper County - K'sheauna Singleton.

Chairman Etheridge recognized Ms. K'sheauna Singleton. Chairman Etheridge noted that he was pleased to announce the winner of the S.C. Association of Counties 2020 Board of Directors Scholarship for Jasper County Ms. K'sheauna Singleton.

The Association of Counties is the only statewide organization representing county government in South Carolina. The scholarship program was established in 1998 to recognize outstanding students who plan to further their education. Each year, the program awards four \$2,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot by the Association. Jasper County was selected in the 2020 draw.

The SCAC scholarship selection committee met in the spring to evaluate applicants for this award. The members had a difficult assignment in trying to choose a recipient; however, they found a young person whose credentials reflect most favorably upon the program.

The recipient of this award is ranked second in her graduating class and is a member of the National Honor Society. A participant in the Reverend Pinckney College Readiness Program, she was also active in the AVID program for college and career readiness. She is a trained AVID tutor and has volunteered by working with elementary school students.

Chairman Etheridge stated that at this time, it is council's pleasure to announce the recipient of the South Carolina Association of Counties 2020 Board of Directors Scholarship for Jasper County—K'sheauna Singleton. K'sheauna, you are a most deserving recipient of this scholarship. The South Carolina Association of Counties and Jasper County Council wishes you continued success and a very bright future. Chairman Etheridge stated that council wanted to offer their Congratulations and on behalf of the South Carolina Association of Counties he offered their Congratulations as well. He noted that he was sorry that this could not be done in person due to COVID restrictions.

Andy Fulghum - Recognition of Chief Edwards and Chief Wells

County Administrator Andrew Fulghum stated that Jasper's Emergency Services Director Frank Edwards will be retiring August 28th, after leading major upgrades to department. Frank Edwards, director of emergency services in Jasper County since February 2018, will retire "again" effective August 28th.

When he joined Jasper County, Edwards already had completed a successful 35-year career in fire and rescue services in Virginia and Florida. He also volunteered an additional 10 years in various emergency departments for a career total of 45 years in the demanding field.

"Chief Edwards brought great experience and new ideas to Jasper County, and that paid off in helping us earn nearly \$2 million in new grants and donations," Jasper County Administrator Andrew Fulghum said. "We appreciate all he did to help us move forward, and though we will miss him, we will continue his planning as we move ahead."

When Edwards officially departs at the end of August, Deputy Director of Emergency Services Chief Russell Wells will become the Acting Emergency Services Director.

"We will conduct a full search for a permanent director, but we will emphasize that it is open to both internal and external candidates," Fulghum said. Chief Wells joined Jasper County in 2005 and has served as deputy director since 2011.

Edwards' achievements in Jasper County include:

- Developing and adopting a new County Emergency Operations Plan
- Providing response to two hurricane events, the Able Construction trash fire, and maintained services through a County-wide cyberattack
- Upgrading Jasper County's Fire Training Facility and obtaining State burn facility certification
- Partnering with Beaufort County on the Regional Shelter Project
- Adding 16 new Firefighter/EMT positions to the organization
- Adding 28 new volunteers to the organization
- Establishing two additional fire rescue stations which were operational in just over seven months
- Designing and leading construction of an additional fire rescue station to be constructed at Route 462 and Marsh Cove Road
- Putting into service additional new and used apparatus and new equipment to include five engines, two tankers, one ladder truck, three ambulances, one new ambulance remount, three staff vehicles, one stake body truck, cardiac monitors, ventilators and extraction equipment.

"It's been my pleasure and honor to serve the people of Jasper County," Edwards said. "I believe we've made some positive improvements to the Emergency Services Division, but there's a lot of work still to be done. I wish the team well."

Before joining Jasper County, Edwards served as Deputy Chief in Chesterfield County, VA and Fire Chief in the City of Margate-Coconut Creek Florida, Escambia County FL, and the City of Pensacola FL.

Mr. Fulghum note that it had been his pleasure to work with Mr. Edwards and thanked him for his service to the county. Councilman Sauls congratulated Chief Edwards on his well-deserved retirement and thanked him for his service to the county. Vice Chairwoman Clark thanked him for all he had done for the county. She noted she regretted seeing him go but was happy for him. She said he had worked so well with the County Administrator and that she appreciated that. She told him to enjoy the time he would now be able to spend with his family. Councilman Johnson echoed the same sentiments. Councilman Brantley wished him Congratulations and God bless.

Mr. Edwards thanked all of the council and Mr. Fulghum. He said he was thankful personally and for the council's financial support to his department. He said everyone's support had been great and that he enjoyed working with everyone.

Mr. Fulghum stated that the department has a great succession plan and that Deputy Director Russell Wells would be serving as the Acting Director of Emergency Services Division. Chairman Etheridge welcomed Russell Wells to his new position.

Open Floor to the Public per Ordinance 08-17 any citizen of the County may sign to speak before the Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

The floor was opened to the public. Chairman Etheridge asked if any comments had been received for public comment. Clerk to Council, Wanda Simmons, stated that no comments had been received.

XI. Resolutions - No resolutions.

XII. Ordinances

A. David Tedder – 3rd and final Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing Jasper County to enter into a Facilities Use Letter of Agreement with the Lowcountry Composite Group of the Civil Air Patrol for the periodic use of a portion of the Ridgeland Claude Dean Airport. This Agreement is to provide office space and use of other areas of the Airport on a periodic basis for a training and other purposes.

County Attorney David Tedder stated that a formal agreement was needed for a structured agreement to be in place. He noted that the public hearing had been held on July 20, 2020 for the record.

Motion to approve – Councilman Sauls

Second – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

B. David Tedder – 1st reading of an ordinance to approve an Agreement to Transfer to the Jasper County School District surplus real property consisting of approximately 0.9 acres, more or less, generally described as the portion of TMP 063-26-33-002 containing the School District Administration Building on N. Jacob Smart Blvd., and to authorize the Jasper County Administrator to enter into the Agreement and execute such deeds and other documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effect the transfer.

County Attorney David Tedder stated that the property must be transferred by an ordinance. This would give an indication of Council's desire to move forward. At the next meeting it would show provisions for parking and for maintaining the facade of the building.

Motion to approve – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second – Councilman Sauls

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

C. David Tedder - Consideration of 1st reading of an ordinance authorizing the granting of an overhead powerline easement to Dominion at Gillisonville Town Square.

County Attorney David Tedder stated that the overhead power easement from the Town Square at 462 and 468 off of Hwy 278.

He noted that the second reading would have more particular survey information and easement agreement.

Chairman Etheridge mentioned that this goes directly down the sidewalk and only in the airspace.

Motion to approve – Councilman Johnson

Second – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

D. David Tedder – Consideration of the 1st reading of an Ordinance of Jasper County Council to Authorize Jasper County to Enter into a Facilities Use Lease Agreement with the Beaufort-Jasper Economic Opportunity Commission for the Use of a Portion of the Robertville and Coosawhatchie Community Centers

County Attorney David Tedder stated that this was part of Project Headstart and that they had been at the community centers for quite some time and were wanting a longer lease agreement. He noted that they wish to improve the properties and add in playgrounds. He said a more defined lease agreement would be provided at the 2nd reading.

Motion to approve – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second – Councilman Johnson

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

- E. **David Tedder** – Consideration of 1st reading by Title Only of an Ordinance regarding Amendments to the Lowcountry Commerce Park Development Agreement.

This item was removed from the agenda.

- F. **Lisa Wagner** – 3rd and final Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Article 2, *Applications to Develop or Alter the Use of Land*, Section 2.2, *Application Procedures for Subdivision and Land Development Regulations*, and Section 2.8, *Major Subdivision*, of the Jasper County Land Development Regulations, to add in requirements for Conceptual Plan Review for major subdivisions.

Lisa Wagner noted that this was a text amendment to the ordinance. She said this would allow for a Conceptual Plan Review. Currently she noted the requirements only allowed for Preliminary and Final Review. This will ensure the applicant is on the right track and would also give the applicant a review opportunity before they get an engineering review.

Motion to approve – Councilman Johnson

Second – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

XIII. New Business

- A. **Kimberly Burgess** - Approval of the State Accommodations Tax Committee recommendations.

Kimberly Burgess stated that the Accommodations Tax committee had met on 7/22/20 and made their recommendations for the use of the Accommodations Tax Funds. She said there were \$50,700.00 funds available for disbursement to the requestors. She said the committees performed interviews of all of the participants via ZOOM and that there were 2 festival requests of \$7000.00 but the festivals had been cancelled. She said one festival requestor had incurred costs of \$500.00 for deposits, and the committee agreed to pay them the \$500.00.

Kimberly Burgess read off the list of requestors and their requested amount and the recommendations from the State Accommodations Tax Committee.

Councilman Dr. Brantley asked if any applicants had applied that did not receive funds. Mrs. Burgess said that the Gopher Hill Festival had applied but did not attend the meetings so they did not receive funds because the festival had been cancelled.

Councilman Johnson asked about a letter from the Litter Control Program. She said that is part of the Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District. She noted they had requested \$3,000.00 and the recommendation was \$3,000.00

Vice Chairwoman Clark asked about the Point South Merchant's Association. Kimberly Burgess stated that they had requested \$35,700.00 and the recommendation was \$25,000.00. She noted the deal with lights at Point South.

Mrs. Burgess provided the following requestors, requested amount and committee recommendations verbally.

<u>Requests</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
POCOTALIGO/PT SOUTH FESTIVAL	4,000.00	500.00
GOPHER HILL FESTIVAL	3,000.00	
POINT SOUTH MERCHANTS ASSN	35,700.00	25,000.00
LOWCOUNTRY & RESORT ISLANDS TOURISM COMM.	5,000.00	5,000.00
JC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITORS CENTER	10,000.00	7,000.00
JC CHAMBER JASPER JAMBOREE COON HUNT	9,000.00	5,000.00
JASPER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT/ BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER	3,000.00	3,000.00
MORRIS CENTER FOR LC HERITAGE	10,000.00	5,200.00
Total	\$ 79,700.00	\$ 50,700.00

Motion to approve – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second – Councilman Johnson

Vote – Councilman Sauls recused himself from voting as he is President of the Chamber of Commerce. All remaining votes were unanimous

The motion passed.

B. Kimberly Burgess - Approval of the Local Accommodations and Hospitality Tax requests.

Kimberly Burgess stated they had received several requests from for money from the Local Accommodations and Hospitality Tax Funds. She provided and reviewed all of these requests with council listing them by requestor and the requested amount. She noted that she had budgeted \$460,000.00 (although they had \$573,000 in receipts this year) anticipating a reduction in those receipts as a result of COVID so she budgeted about \$460,000.00. She noted they had 2 festivals totaling \$29,000.00 that had been cancelled. Total requested was \$494,699.00 - \$29,000.00 (cancelled festivals) = \$465,699.00 which is \$5699.00 which is over what was budgeted. Chairman Etheridge asked about the Jasper County Airport \$150,000 and

Jasper County Improvement to Exit 33. County Administrator, Andrew Fulghum said the Jasper County Airport request of \$150,000.00 county's portion of the line of credit with South State Bank which is dedicated for at least a 10-year period.

Danny Lucas said this was for better access to Exit 33, to the industrial area (the Spec Building). This is part in parcel to a much larger program of trying to reinvigorate and revitalize that area. Councilman Sauls said this was for roadway coming into the industrial area where the Spec Building is located. He said we have been trying to market money is for road access to that building and that area for economic development coming from the highway. It was suggested to table this item until it could be discussed further. Councilman Johnson asked if we collected more if the money could be carried forward. Kimberly Burgess said she could look into that. Mrs. Burgess provided the following requestors and requested amounts verbally.

Requestor	Requested Amt
BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER	10,000.00
GOPHER HILL FESTIVAL	10,000.00
JC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – BILLBOARD	9,000.00
JC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - FARMERS MKT	35,600.00
JASPER CO. AIRPORT	150,000.00
JASPER COUNTY (IMPR. TO EXIT 33)	105,000.00
JC CHAMBER VISITORS CTR & HISTORICAL SOCIETY	8,499.00
JC EXIT 33 LIGHTS- UTILITIES	13,000.00
JASPER COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE	10,000.00
LOWCOUNTRY & RESORT ISLANDS TOURISM COMM.	13,100.00
MORRIS CENTER	10,000.00
POCOTALIGO/POINT SOUTH FESTIVAL	19,000.00
POINT SOUTH MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION	101,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 494,699.00

After some further discussion it was decided to make a motion.

Motion to approve \$465,699.00 as requested, and providing if a shortfall occurs make up the difference with the C-Funds Tax – Councilman Johnson

Second – Councilman Sauls

Vote – Unanimous

The motion passed.

C. [Kimberly Burgess](#) - RecoverSC Local Government Liquidity Program administered by the South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority (for discussion purposes only)

Kimberly Burgess stated she put this on the agenda because she was notified of this program and the counties could apply for a loan from the state. The percentage rate is 4.75% and the terms of the loan would be 10 years with the first 5 years interest only. She noted that we could apply for a loan amount of \$4,206,000.00 dollars. She said this was forwarded this to the county's investment advisor, and he felt the interest rate was too high in this interest environment. He also felt the term was not to the county's benefit and he thought there were better opportunities, so application was not made. This was to notify council of its availability.

D. [Danny Lucas](#) - Request to Expend CARES Act Grant Funding for Airport Signage.

Danny Lucas said on 3/27/2020 that the Federal Government signed into law CARES Act and that 10 billion was dedicated to airports and of that \$10 billion dollars \$100 million was set aside for general aviation airports, and that our airport is one of those. This money will make up for shortfalls in revenue and other programs due to the lack of activity in aviation with COVID.

We are able to get a \$30,000 grant since our airport has been reclassified. The law allows for these monies to be spent on operating expenses or dedicate money to new airport construction with specific approval from the FAA. We propose to spend our \$30,000 on new signage for the airport. There is no signage on US 278 Grays Hwy signifying that an airport is approaching or at that location. We are going to add to that by developing a new access road for the North Terminal creating more confusion due to lack of signage. This will provide signage on South terminal 134 Airport Rd. and additional signage at the new access at the North terminal. We request to use this money for new airport construction for signage and if not as a fallback we would like to use the money for operating expenses, for debt service and payroll. We request you approve our application to the CARES Act for signage and the fallback position of operating expenses.

Motion to approve the request as presented – Councilman Brantley

Second – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

E. [Danny Lucas](#) – Consideration of Partnership with the Town of Ridgeland for a US Census Digital Marketing Campaign.

Danny Lucas addressed this request and noted that the 2020 census is falling behind. This will allow us to go into business with the Town of Ridgeland to promote and market to people for the completion of the census. He said this would be paid for from a \$1500.00 grant received from the United Way of SC that we received and will go toward the \$3950.00 winding up with a \$5450.00 effort through the Adams Company to try to get more people to comply and respond to the census. This is a 6-week effort starting today going through September 30th. We will be using this money for social media awareness campaign utilizing Facebook, Instagram and

Display ads on the Weather Channel. They will be offered an opportunity to complete the census through these. This will be marketed to and cover the six zip codes of 29936; 29912; 29916; 29934; 29943; and 29944. We ask that council approve spending this money on marketing this program along with the Town of Ridgeland. Councilman Johnson asked if we should make this offer to the City of Hardeeville. Danny Lucas said that same offer had been made but they were doing something different.

Motion to accept and approve this recommendation – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second – Councilman Sauls

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

F. [Danny Lucas](#) - Change Order Number 4 - Ridgeland Claude-Dean Airport Expansion Project Phase 4: Apron, Road Parking and Utilities.

Danny Lucas addressed this request for Change Order Number 4 - Ridgeland Claude-Dean Airport Expansion Project Phase 4: Apron, Road Parking and Utilities. He said this was needed for additional electrical conduit wiring. The request was for council to approve this change order in the amount of \$11,252.17. Mr. Fulghum also noted that this work was being done by the contractor Cleland Site Prep and he had previously made a disclosure of notice that his spouse works for this contractor. He asked as a part of the consideration that the Chairman be empowered to execute the change order.

Motion to approve – Councilman Sauls

Second – Councilman Johnson

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

G. [Frank Edwards](#) – Consideration of Contract for Medical Control Physician for Jasper County Fire Rescue.

Chief Edwards asked for Council's consideration to approve the contract that sent over to them to contract with for Dr. Paul Zorch of Coastal Carolina Hospital as our Medical Control Physician for Jasper County.

He stated they had gone out for an RFQ and received two applicants. He noted they had interviewed the two applicants and Dr. Paul Zorch was selected by the panel for a 3-year contract beginning September 1st. Chairman Etheridge asked if everyone had read the contract. Vice Chairwoman Clark said she had problems getting her email due to technical problems and just received her email prior to executive session and asked for clarification on this contract.

Chief Edwards said that the State of South Carolina requires that all EMS agencies have a medical physician that serves as the county's medical control physician to provide oversight to patient care, address patient care issues, provide training and that the EMS Agency operates under that physicians license to provide medical services in the county. Chief Edwards noted

that they had a position and they wanted to see what other opportunities were out there and so an RFQ was put out. Then he noted, they went through the interview process. Vice Chairwoman Clark asked if it had to be approved tonight, and Chief Edwards said the issue was the current contract with the current Medical Control Physician would be expiring on 08/31/2020, so something would have to be done before that time. After this discussion a motion was made.

Motion made that Dr. Etheridge remain the County Medical Physician - Councilman Sauls Second - Vice Chairwoman Clark.

Chairman Etheridge recused himself from voting and turned the vote over to Vice Chairwoman Clark.

David Tedder, County Attorney said in order to honor Councilman Sauls motion, we need to define how the contractual relationship will move forward from here, whether they are on the same terms and conditions as were in the past contract or will they be different. There is a contract expiring 08.31.2020 and he asked if Councilman Sauls was suggesting that we extend that contract on its present terms and conditions.

Councilman Sauls said that yes, that was fine with him and Vice Chairwoman Clark agreed.

Vote - Chairman Etheridge recused himself from voting and all other votes were yes.
The motion passed.

H. Frank Edwards – Consideration of a Two-Year Expenditure Plan for 911 Tax Revenue.

Mr. Edwards noted this was the same type of two-year expenditure plan for the 911 Tax Revenue. Council approved such a plan in 2018 and they are at the end of that time now. We are continuing to improve the 911 center we propose another two-year plan for FY21-22.

Motion to accept – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second – Councilman Sauls

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

XIV. Old Business

A. Lisa Wagner - Church Rd – Stiney Rd. Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.

The construction startup for the Church Rd – Stiney Rd. Neighborhood Revitalization Plan received environmental clearance the first week of December 2019. The environmental review process took a little over nine months from start to finish. They were able to clear all phases of the project. Asbestos testing was completed in August 2019, for all parts that will be demolished. The demolition project was bid in February 2020, with a March opening but there were issues with the low bidder's addenda acknowledgments and the only compliant bid was over budget. The demolition project was rebid in June and bid opening was July 21. There were 7 proposals received ranging from \$226,549 to \$442,350. The low bidder JRJ Environmental failed to provide the Bid Bond with the recommendation to award the second low bidder T-Seac International.

The contract package has been sent to SC Commerce for review and approval. Once we receive the approved contract, we ask Council's approval to allow the county administrator to enter into the contract with T-Seac International for an anticipated amount of \$253,350.00. This is grant funded.

Motion to give the County Administrator the approval to carry on with the amount that is due in the amount of \$253,353.00 – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second – Councilman Johnson

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

XV. Council Members Comments

Councilman Sauls thanked the staff for all they are doing during this time and thanked everyone in the public for their support.

Councilman Brantley prayed for safety for the county during this time.

Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that she would like prayer for herself and for all employees. She noted that a young family member in Savannah had passed from the COVID virus. She also noted that Ridgeland Elementary had closed because 3 employees had the COVID virus. She said they had also buried their Bishop on Friday.

Councilman Johnson thanked the citizens and staff for all they are doing and for keeping up with productivity. He noted he was concerned for the safety of the employees and the public.

Chairman Etheridge sent out prayers for everyone who is working with the public. He encouraged them to remain careful. He also mentioned that before doing any business he would be opening the meetings with prayer and that he had checked to be sure this was alright to do.

XVI. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Andrew Fulghum had six items for discussion on this section.

1. Appointments / Reappointments – Boards and Commissions

County Administrator Andrew Fulghum noted that there were 3 appointments (1 appointment for SOLOCO Affordable Housing Steering Committee and 2 appointment for the Board of Zoning Appeals). He also noted that there are 8 reappointments to consider (3 appointments on the Board of Zoning Appeals and 5 appointments on the Planning Commission) that were needed. He noted he would work with the Chairman to try to work on doing some of these at the next meeting.

2. School Resource Officer Agreement between the Jasper County Sheriff's Office and Polaris Tech Charter School.

County Administrator Andrew Fulghum stated that he had provided a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Jasper County Sheriff's Office and Polaris Tech Charter School for the provision of a School Resource Officer. The Sheriff's Department contracts for this. The MOU recoups the cost for the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Fulghum noted that he had provided council and the Finance Department with a copy of the new agreement which had been executed.

3. Meyer Lake Tract (TMS 028-00-01-001,028-00-01-018, and 028-02-00-035.

County Administrator Andrew Fulghum mentioned that the Lowcountry Land Trust in considering doing a permanent preservation on these three different properties through conservation easements. They have applied for funding to the South Carolina Conservation Bank to secure conservation easements for the properties. We have received notices of this activity from the Lowcountry Land Trust as well as the South Carolina Conservation Bank. He mentioned the maps were in their packet and that these 3 properties were a substantial amount of land totaling 974 acres along Savannah River that could be conserved.

4. Technical Assistance with Conservation Research.

County Administrator Andrew Fulghum mentioned that some time back he had discussed with Council regarding ideas of conducting some soft polling of residents to see what the interest may be in the County actively working to try to fund conservation efforts and environmental projects such as recreational trails, parks and potentially water quality improvement projects. He stated that the Trust for Public Land, the Nature Conservancy, the Beaufort County Open Land Trust, and the Lowcountry Land Trust have an interest in helping the County do that by completing a Conservation Finance Feasibility Study for the County. The work would be foundation funded and they have done this work before in other counties. Also, he noted there was no cost to do the study, and the only requirement is that the Chairman sign a letter of technical assistance and he provided a copy of a recent one done from Dorchester County.

Motion to empower Chairman to sign a letter requesting technical assistance from the trust for public land so we can receive the research and report efforts for the trust for public land

- Councilman Johnson

Second - Councilwoman Clark.

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

5. New Entry Road – Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport

County Administrator Andrew Fulghum stated that this road will be a new county owned and maintained road. He stated that the road is now completed and needs to be given a name.

He said several names had been provided by the prior Airport Manager and Current Airport Manager. He clarified that naming the road requires the county to make the application to the Planning Commission to name that road. He said that over the past several months that this had been reviewed and two names that had been favored were: Ridgeland-Claude Dean Airport and Aviation Gateway.

Councilman Dr. Brantley said that he preferred Aviation Gateway. Councilman Marty Sauls stated that he felt the road should be named after council's First Lady Barbara Clark since she had been a part of the airport since the beginning. He said she had done a lot of work and went to the Aviation Conferences every year.

Motion was made to name the road after council's First Lady Barbara Clark - Councilman Sauls

Second - Councilman Johnson

Chairman Etheridge said any time he has attempted to name something after someone in Jasper County it was a problem. He said he would be recusing himself from the vote and turning this over to Vice Chairwoman Clark to take the votes.

Vote - Chairman Etheridge recused himself from voting and all other votes were yes.
The motion passed.

6. Coosawhatchie Senior Center

Mr. Fulghum noted that years ago the council on aging was trying to consolidate services. Now they are down to only six people attending there are seeking the county's guidance on their recommendation to close the Coosawhatchie Senior Center as they currently have only six participants at that location. They are willing to provide transportation to those individuals to go to Ridgeland.

Chairman Etheridge said they only have 6 people and most times do not even have 6 people. He said for cost effectiveness it is more cost productive to transport them to Ridgeland. He noted one person lives on Bees Creek Rd. right down from Ridgeland facility. Councilman Johnson said this was obviously an efficiency issue and if they offer transportation for this group, he would make that a motion.

Motion to close the Coosawhatchie Senior Center as they currently have only six participants at that location with the agreement that they will provide transportation to those individuals to go to Ridgeland – Councilman Johnson

Second - Councilman Brantley

Vote – Unanimous

The motion passed.

XVII. Possible Return to Executive Session to Continue Discussion on Matters Regarding Agenda Item II – No return to executive session.

XVIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn – Vice Chairwoman Clark

Second - Councilman Sauls

Vote - Unanimous

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Simmons
Clerk to Council

Approved:



Henry Etheridge
Chairman